

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 265  
By Whitson

A RESOLUTION to encourage citizen involvement in the recycling of glass in Tennessee while recognizing the positive efforts of the malt beverage industry, the soft drink industry, the department of transportation and the Clean Tennessee Program.

WHEREAS, glass has been produced for over 3,500 years and serves as a safe, inert, microwavable and resealable container that has extra value as a recycling commodity; and

WHEREAS, glass packaging contains everything from baby foods to liquid refreshments to medicine jars and often have a secondary life in reuse as home or office containers for extra foods and items. The final disposition of glass into cullet for recycling into a new glass container closes this loop on the packaging product; and

WHEREAS, volunteer programs that address all components of the litter stream are far more effective at reducing all types of litter, including those perceived to be unsafe and unsightly; and

WHEREAS, human behavior to carelessly throw used glass onto roads, highways, farm and residential properties has caused concern about the magnitude of this type of litter and is incorrectly perceived to be the major problem, with the solution being a mandatory "bottle bill" to reduce the litter; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that Tennessee's malt beverage and soft drink industries are dedicated to being environmentally responsible corporate citizens through the use of

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recyclable containers for their products and have encouraged container recycling at a rate unmatched in any other consumer package; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Legislature, in 1981, decided to address the entire litter and solid waste mishandling issue with a comprehensive collection and education program, rather than a partial mandate on bottles and cans; and

WHEREAS, since 1981, Tennessee's malt beverage and soft drink industry, in a continued effort to be responsible, have worked with the Legislature to fund litter control and litter education programs in all 95 counties; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation, Highway Maintenance Division, is responsible for administering these funds in support of positive litter programs, such as recycling, roadside litter pick-up and public education programs to help Tennesseans reduce the amount of litter in their counties and state; and

WHEREAS, for the past sixteen years, over \$47 million dollars from beverage taxes has been made available for litter control and litter education in all 95 counties, with 75% - 80% used for collection of litter and 20% - 25% for the prevention through education; and

WHEREAS, a glass processor is located in Tennessee, providing a convenient market for recycled glass. Strategic Material, Inc. (SMI) is the nation's largest glass recycler and powdered glass processor in North America, with a plant located in Ashland City, Tennessee. SMI works with counties to reduce landfill costs, provide roll-off services and provide transportation for glass recyclers. SMI obtains post-consumer and industrial scrap glass from numerous sources, including household recycling programs; hotel, bar and restaurant recycling programs; plate and container glass manufacturers; and community recycling centers; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's malt beverage and soft drink industries, in partnership with the glass manufacturing industry, support KEEP AMERICAN BEAUTIFUL and its Tennessee affiliate, CLEAN TENNESSEE, providing recycling information, promotional assistance and financial support for their litter education efforts; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That the citizens of Tennessee join with the responsible corporate citizens named above, as well as various other communities in Tennessee, to continue to support comprehensive voluntary litter reduction programs, not limited to glass, and that local and regional recycling programs be implemented which encourage the removal of recyclable materials along our countryside.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the state Department of Transportation, Highway Maintenance Division, shall annually produce a printed report specifically for the House Conservation and Environment and Transportation Committees, as well as the Senate Environment, Conservation & Tourism and Transportation Committees, as well as being made available to interested members of the General Assembly, the Executive Branch, the counties and the general public on the receipt of revenues from Tennessee's malt beverage and soft drink industries earmarked for litter control and litter education programs in all 95 counties and how those funds were spent.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the state Department of Transportation, Highway Maintenance Division's first report shall be a compilation and review of all activities since 1981 through 1995-96 and that subsequent reports shall be available within a reasonable time frame at the close of any fiscal year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Commissioner of Transportation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

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